made for the purpose;

(c) the number of weavers likely to be covered under the scheme;

(f) whether Government have also made any review of the schemes implemented for strengthening of handloom sector during the Seventh Five Year Plan period; and

(g) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) while the earning of handloom weavers varies from season to season depending on the demand and prices of raw materials and finished goods, Government has no specific information that the economic condition of handloom weavers in the country is deteriorating.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government has formulated a comprehensive Plan for the development of handloom sector during the Eighth Five Year Plan period. Apart from continuing certain on-going schemes of Seventh Plan which have yielded positive results, the following new schemes have been introduced for implementation during the Eighth Plan period:

1. Margin Money for Destitute Weavers.
2. Project Package Scheme.
3. Group Insurance Scheme.
4. Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme.
5. Silk Yarn Bank Scheme.

(d) An outlay of Rs. 300.00 crores has been earmarked for implementing the plan schemes during the Eighth Plan period.

(e) While it would not be possible to specify the number of weavers to be covered under the various schemes, it is proposed to extend a number of schemes to weavers outside the cooperative sector also.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The total emphasis in the Seventh Plan and in the earlier Plans had been on reaching across the weavers through cooperative societies and or through handloom development corporations. Since, it has led to the Limited coverage, some of the schemes of Eighth Plan have been re-designed to cover weavers outside the cooperative fold also, besides introduction of new schemes.

Action Against Cotton Exporting Agents

3554. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Bombay based cotton agents have exported cotton to other countries instead of Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the agents against whom any action has been taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c) Information is being collected.

Demand of higher Quota for cotton export

3555. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cotton growers in the country have demanded that their export quota should be increased;

(b) if so, what quantity of cotton had been exported from Gujarat during the last three years together with the quantity demanded for export by the cotton growers; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to ensure that the cotton growers get reasonable price for their produce?